World Bank's Emphasis on need for Liberalisation of Export Promotion Schemes

3181. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has stressed the need for further liberalisation of export promotion schemes, such as duty free import schemes for export and creation of supportive infrastructure services, especially the Export Processing Zones;

(b) if so, what precise proposals has been made by the World Bank in this regard; and

(c) what is the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) While the World Bank gives its assessment about current economic policies in its Annual Country Memorandum, there is no obligation or insistence that its observations should be acted upon. Government is, therefore, free to decide matters concerning trade liberalisation etc. in accordance with its own better judgement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Caution Voiced by the Director General of GATT

3182. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the caution voiced by the new Director General of GATT, reportedly saying that time was running out for free trade agreement that economic chaos would reign without one; and

(b) if so, whether any specific proposals have been made by him for an early settlement of the issue involved in the matter of adoption of a free trade agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The D. G. GATT has been emphasising the desirability of an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Although negotiations have restarted in Geneva after the G-7 Summit in Tokyo in early July, these are expected to gather momentum only in September, after the summer break. No new specific proposals have, however, been made for early settlement of the issues under negotiation.

Joint Ventures with China

3183. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Joint Ventures with China with the object of production sharing and exports to Third Countries are under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) In the Joint Group meetings on Economic Relations Trade and Science and Technology, both India and China have agreed to set up joint ventures with the object of production sharing and exports to Third Countries. However, no such proposal has been received so far.

Proposal to upgrade the post of General Manager

3184. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to up-grade the post of General Manager from the rank of Major General to Lt. General;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that this move is to create additional posts;

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the Canteen Stores Department; and

(e) whether the top management will be shifted to Delhi to ensure better supervision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The functioning of the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) is regularly reviewed by the Government and efforts